



City of La Porte

Established 1892

Police Department

Recognized as a Best Practices Agency by
the Texas Association of Police Chiefs



Media Relations Information for 10/10/2014

*Public Relations Officer – Sgt. John Krueger
Office: 281-842-3161*

**La Porte Police successfully conclude investigation of
Cold Case-Capital Murder**

The La Porte Police Department recently made a significant arrest, clearing a second “Cold Case Murder” in less than a year. La Porte Investigators arrested John Anthony Vela, 37 years of age, from Falfurrias, Texas for the 2002 Murders of Kevin Collins and Melissa Williams. The bodies of Collins and Williams were found on September 27, 2002 at their home in the 2900 block of Ivy in La Porte. A maintenance worker for the trailer park discovered the bodies when he went to work on the couple’s air conditioner. Collins and Williams were found to have multiple stab wounds.

La Porte Police Department Detectives continued to investigate the case through the years and were finally able to obtain a warrant for the arrest of Vela, who had been the prime suspect since early in the investigation, and was also a long time resident of La Porte.

On October 9, 2014, Detectives traveled to Falfurrias, Texas where they were able to locate and arrest Vela. Vela was transported back to La Porte and charged with Capital Murder.

In January of this year, La Porte Investigators also made an arrest and filed Capital Murder charges on Gordon Craig Houser for the 1997 Murders of Charles and Kathy Hayes.



John Anthony Vela
05-16-1977